

National News

"India Rankings 2016" released by NIRF

- Report by NIRF covered **3,500 educational institutes in 4 Categories University, Engineering, Management and Pharmacy.**
 - In the **Tech category, IIT- Madras** topped the list.
 - In the **management category, IIM-Bangalore** leads the chart.
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Asia-Pacific Remote Sensing Symposium hosted in India

- Symposium is organized by the **Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS),**
 - a professional society of more than **4000 scientists and researchers**
 - Attended by the **chief of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** among heads of several other space agencies.
 - President of **French National Space Agency, Vice-President of Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Vice-Administrator of China National Space Administration, Director General of EUMETSAT and Mexican Space Agency** also participated
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Tirimbakeshwar Temple Trust bars entry for all

- **Traditional and hereditary priests** will be allowed to enter the sanctum
 - The **ban will be in place until the next hearing**
 - Located in **Nashik district of Maharashtra**
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Highlights of the 4th NSS

- Leaders from more than **50 countries** and **four international organizations** took part.
 - Two-day summit was aimed at getting **political leaderships directly involved in dealing with the threat of nuclear terrorism.**
 - **India and Pakistan** need to make progress in **reducing their nuclear arsenal**
 - To reduce the global nuclear arsenal it is **necessary for the U.S. and Russia,** the **two largest possessors of nuclear weapons,** to lead the way.
 - **Islamic State (IS) terror group obtaining a nuclear weapon** is one of the greatest threats to global security. **World leaders have to work together to prevent it from happening.**
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FCRA tweaked to boost CSR spend

- **Will allow political parties to accept donations from overseas companies** whose ownership of Indian entities is within the foreign investment limits
 - **Before now, FCRA had banned political parties from receiving funds from any foreign source.**
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NHRC notice on 'go-slow' promise

- The commission has observed that the **step will deny the people of India access to generic medicines at affordable prices.**
 - Notice comes after reports that came in March that the United States-India Business Council (USIBC) had been verbally assured that **India's patent offices would take a restrained approach in handing out licenses** to produce **cheaper, generic versions of drugs patented by American companies.**
 - USTR has placed India on its "priority watch list" for two years now, saying **its patent laws favor the local drug industry in an unfair manner.**
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Business and Economy

India's first cash giving app 'CASHe' launched

- It is the **idea lplatform** for consumers to take **control of their short term finances.**
 - Provides users a personalized experience to **borrow cash anytime, anywhere within minutes for their needs.**
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Reliance AMC named as India's "Best Employer Brand"

- **Only mutual fund Company** to get this recognition in India in the **top 25 AON list for 2016.**
 - **Reliance Asset Management Company** has been **listed among the best employer brands.**
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World's largest oil firm Aramco to invest in India

- The company regarded India as the **most preferred investment destination.**

- Saudi Arabia is **currently India's largest crude supplier**,
 - supplies **one-fifth of the country's oil**
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Alaska Air Group to acquire Virgin America in \$4 bn deal

- It will become the **US's fifth largest airline company**.
 - Will pay **\$57 in cash per share for Virgin America**, or a **total of \$2.6 billion**.
 - The newly merged company will be **headquartered in Seattle, US**.
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Blackstone to buy Mphasis for \$1.1billion

- **Largest deal by Blackstone** in India and is the **largest private equity transaction in the country**.
 - Mphasis, IT Services provider which **offers Applications, Business Process Outsourcing and Infrastructure Services**.
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Science and Technology

Ballast water conveying obtrusive species to Indian coasts

- **Ballast water carried by ships** is enabling **non-native intrusive species** over the Indian Coast.
 - Study was led by the **Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries**, University of Kerala.
 - Survey has found **10 invasive species** in the biodiversity rich intertidal habitats of the Kerala coast
 - **One seaweed, one species of bryozoan, one species of mollusc and seven species of ascidian**.
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Reusable Blue Origin rocket makes third successful vertical landing

- **Unmanned crew capsule** also landed safely, using parachutes.
 - This opens up the potential for **cutting costs for Space travel and making rockets as reusable as airplanes**
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Biopolymer for water purification

- **Eco-friendly nano technology** for **water-softening applications**.
 - Developed by a **team of Scientists from Institute of Advance Study in Science & Technology in Assam**
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Planet with triple-star system found

- **Known planets with three stars appearing in their sky are rare**
 - This is the **fourth such discovery**.
 - The planet is found in the new system with one star named **KELT-4Ab, a gas giant planet, similar in size to Jupiter**
 - Other two stars, named **KELT-B and C**, are much farther away and **orbit one another over the course of approximately 30 years**.
 - **Triple-star system** offers a unique opportunity for scientists working to try to understand how it is that gas giants, such as KELT-4Ab, manage to orbit so close to their star.
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People in News

Former Bombay Ranji player Ranjan Baidoor passes away

- Played for **Bombay Ranji team from 1974-75 to 1984-85**.
 - **Former secretary of Tata Sports Club**
 - Served as the **chairman of the selection committee for the under-19 team**.
 - Current member of the **selection committee of the senior and Under-23 sides**.
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Former Italy coach, AC Milan player Cesare Maldini dies

- Won **four Series A titles** during his time with Milan and was **skipper of the side in 1963**.
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Vietnam Police Chief Tran Dai Quang sworn in as President

- Received **436 votes from 465 assembly members**
 - Quang is the **first police general to fill the post**,
 - Succeeds **Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung** withdrew his candidacy.
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Awards

Vedanta sets Guinness World Record

- Guinness World Record for planting **208,751 saplings** at a solitary area in **under 60 minutes**.

- mass plantation drive was organized in **Mansa, Punjab on October 30, 2015**
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Sports

Cyprian Kotut wins 40th Paris marathon 2016

- He also won the **Paris half-marathon last month**, completed the **195-kilometer(26-mile) race in 2 hours, 7 minutes and 11 seconds**
 - **Kenya's Visiline Jepkesho and Cyprian Kotut** were **dominant winners** at the 40th edition of the Paris Marathon.
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Nico Roseberg wins 2016 Bahrain Grand Prix

- His **fifth win in a row**.
 - **Kimi Raikkonen finished second for Ferrari. Lewis Hamilton finished third for Mercedes.**
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